Fire in ONGC Well

†2374. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to State :

(a) the quantum of loss sufferd as a result of fire which broke out in oil well at Narnavi village in Nagra Tolluka in South Gujarat ;

(b) whether this fire broke out during stealing of oil;

(c) if so, the improvements being made in safety management in and around oilwell areas;

(d) whether indigenous technique is insufficient for putting out such fire; and

(e) if so, the measures being taken to make the country self-sufficient in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) The total loss, including expenditure incurred in controlling the fire and reviving the well, is estimated by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to be around Rs. 5 crores.

(b) The fire broke out while the miscreants were attempting pilferage of oil from the well.

(c) It is proposed by ONGC to take the following measures :—

(i) Stoppage of oil tanker movements in oil field at night;

(ii) Vehicle checking at night;

(iii) Joint Patrolling by police, Central Industrial Security Force and ONGC personnels; and

(iv) Educating the people.

(d) and (e) The Crisis Management team of ONGC is well equipped with manpower and materials for undertaking operations for controlling and dousing the well fire at a short notice.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.